

**Introduced by Committee on Health and Human Services  
(Senators Ortiz (Chair), Chesbro, Escutia, Figueroa, Haynes,  
Kuehl, Polanco, Vasconcellos, and Vincent)**

March 13, 2001

---

---

An act to amend Section 12554 of the Welfare and Institutions Code, relating to public social services.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SB 1190, as introduced, Committee on Health and Human Services. Assistive dog allowance.

Existing law specifies that an individual who has a guide, signal, or service dog and who is a recipient of the federal Supplemental Security Income/State Supplementary Program for the Aged, Blind and Disabled (SSI/SSP) is eligible for a \$50 per month allowance for dog food and other costs related to the care and maintenance of the dog.

Existing law also provides that an individual who has a guide, signal, or service dog, and who is a recipient of federal Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI) benefits whose income and resources are not in excess of the federal poverty level is eligible for a \$35 per month allowance for dog food and other costs related to the care and maintenance of the dog.

This bill would increase the allowance level for eligible SSDI recipients to \$50.

Vote: majority. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: yes. State-mandated local program: no.

*The people of the State of California do enact as follows:*

1 SECTION 1. Section 12554 of the Welfare and Institutions  
2 Code is amended to read:

3 12554. (a) Notwithstanding Section 12552, special  
4 circumstances shall also include the administration and payment  
5 by the department pursuant to this section of a recurring special  
6 need allowance to every eligible recipient who has a guide dog,  
7 signal dog, or other service dog, to pay for dog food and other costs  
8 associated with the dog's care and maintenance.

9 (b) For purposes of this section, the special need allowance  
10 shall be ~~thirty-five dollars (\$35)~~ *fifty dollars (\$50)* per month.

11 (c) The department shall mail an application for the allowance  
12 to each recipient of benefits under the federal Social Security  
13 Disability Insurance (SSDI) program who is known to the  
14 department to have a guide dog, signal dog, or other service dog,  
15 or who has requested an application from the department, and who  
16 is a legal resident of this state. The application shall include a  
17 disclosure of the applicant's resources and all sources and amounts  
18 of the applicant's income. The application shall be upon a standard  
19 form prescribed by regulations of the department and containing  
20 a written declaration that the affirmation is made under penalty of  
21 perjury subject to prosecution as the crime of perjury under the  
22 Penal Code. The recipient or, if the recipient is incapable, another  
23 person as described in Section 11054 may make the affirmation.  
24 In order to establish eligibility pursuant to subdivision (e), the  
25 applicant shall also be required to present a proof of income  
26 statement from the federal Social Security Administration. The  
27 department shall grant the special need allowance upon the basis  
28 of the affirmation by mailing a monthly warrant in the amount  
29 indicated in subdivision (b) to the recipient.

30 (d) The county welfare department shall cooperate in assisting  
31 the recipient in completing his or her application for the special  
32 need allowance authorized by this section.

33 (e) For purposes of this section, "eligible recipient" means any  
34 person legally residing in this state who is a recipient of benefits  
35 under the federal Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI)  
36 program, provided for pursuant to Title II of the federal Social  
37 Security Act (42 U.S.C. Sec. 401, et seq.) and whose income and  
38 resources are not in excess of the federal poverty level. For



1 purposes of determining eligibility under this section, income and  
2 resources shall be defined in the same manner as those terms are  
3 used in determining eligibility for aid under Chapter 3  
4 (commencing with Section 12000).

O

